This general approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is granted initially for a period of two years ending 31.12.2006 and will be subject to review thereafter.

Yours faithfully,

(ANURAG BAJPAI) Asstt. Inspector
General of Forests

Copy to:—

1. PMO (Atten.: Shri K.V. Pratap, Deputy Secretary), New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Planning Commission, New Delhi.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi.
5. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi.
6. All PCCFs/Nodal Officers (All States/UTs).
7. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment and Forests.
8. Director General of Police (All States/UTs).
9. Director (FC)/AIGs(FC).
10. FileNo.2-1/2003-FC.
11. Guard file.

Pollution in Bihar

513. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been, drawn towards media report stating that NASA reported high level of pollution enveloping Bihar

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to check the pollution in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Based on the analysis of satellite data captured by National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA), United States of America (USA), researchers have reported about winter-time pool of air polluting particles over the Indian sub-continent, particularly over Bihar. Pollution observed over Bihar does not solely originate from there, but could be due to transportation of pollution from western portions of the Ganges Valley. Additionally, the meteorology and topography surrounding Bihar favour trapping of pollution during winter. The pollution observed in Bihar during winter is attributable to burning of bio-fuels used during cooking and other domestic use, coal used by utilities and industries as well as vehicular pollution.

(c) and (d) The Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board have initiated steps including action plans to control air pollution from various sources like vehicles, industries, domestic fuel burning etc.

Facility of GIS and GPS to forestry

514. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forestry of our country have the facility of Geographical Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS);

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and area-wise; and

(c) the steps, if any, to establish more number of GIS and GPS in the country's forestry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of States and Union Territory have been provided funds by the Central Government under Integrated Forests Protection Scheme for GIS and GPS. These are Andhra Pradesh, Kamataka, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa, Maharashtra, Punjab, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(c) Central assistance is also being provided to the remaining States